



# southern california dx club

March 2003



SCDXC Board for 2003

## Soap Box— Words from our President



If you missed the February meeting, you missed a great one. Last month's meeting was a real blast. We started out with a great turn out, with a room full of club members, many that we hadn't seen for several months. But the icing on the cake were the two guests hams that we had the honor and pleasure of joining us. The first sur-

prise guest was the world famous Joe Walsh, rock and roll music legend from the Eagles. Joe, WB6ACU, has entertained the world for more than 30 years, as his songs are the veritable soundtrack of our lives.

Recently, Joe has been touring with the Eagles to sell-out crowds, both in Europe and the U.S. Besides continuing his lifelong commitment to music, Joe has appeared on the Drew Carey Show, Mad TV, as well as on Bill Maher's Politically Incorrect. He's even been "animated for television" on Duck Man and The Simpson's, and generously giving his time to support the Santa Cruz Island Foundation and the California Innocence Project.

Best known for his adventurous guitar licks, Joe spent his college days known as the "phantom of Kent State" Joe continued to push the limits of Rock 'N Roll, while somehow still adhering to the old adage K.I.S.S. (Keep It Simple, Stupid!)

Joe had played with many bands, but it wasn't until 1969, when he joined the Cleveland based power trio The James Gang, that he got a taste of sweet success. Two of the four albums that the Gang released from 1970 to 1971 went gold

In 1976, Joe was asked by the Eagles to replace

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Voice of the Veep



I want to thank Bob Heil, K9EID and Joe Walsh, WB6ACU for a great presentation at our Feb meeting. We had a sell out crowd and I even had a great dinner with many of you at the Roll N' Rye Deli. Bob was kind enough to have donated to our raffle two headsets, one foot pedal and two of his elements (HM4 & 5). We raffled off a \$150 gift cert from HRO, dinner for two at Stuart Andersons, some books, RFI tracer (MFJ), and some CD's from ARRL and "The Flying Horse" Call book last one to be done. The ladies raffle went well, six Wild Women were there and Karen Rosenberg, was the lucky lady. We also had Coffee and cookies. I will try to do this as often as I can, it was fun and everyone who had coffee and cookies were very considerate and cleaned up after themselves. Thank you, this way I will feel that we are not making pigs out of ourselves and making us look bad to the recreation center. Here is the schedule so far for Presentations and meetings:

March 13 - Pat Marcy from Icom - upcoming radios and possibly a new one

April 10 - HI-Q Antenna's (Charlie) is tentatively scheduled in. He has a new mobile antenna that is light weight and he says does everything that the FT100 antenna does.

May - No meeting - due to the Visalia Convention will be the first week of May and then those heading for Dayton.

June 12 - Anchor's Away - Yes mates, its time to look deep into the garage, ham shack, under the bed anywhere where you have hidden those things you weren't quite ready to get rid of.

June 21 - The 3rd annual picnic - I will be working a deal with HRO on a special radio and some other raffle prizes. It will be held at Woodley Park Grove 1 in Van Nuys.

I am also working on a couple of other personalities to join us.

We will also keep you informed on the summer bash and it's date and location.

If you have any one that you feel might give a great presentation on DX or something to do with ham radio - give me a call.

Thanks 73 & 88's (I bet I am the only one that can do this to this club, HI HI)

### E-Mail Addresses

**Reminder — if you change your email address please inform the club membership chairman.**





## MEETING NOTES

What a turnout we had, Larry, K6YUI, estimated close to 30 people joined him for dinner at the deli before the meeting. This translated into standing room only for the meeting itself. The featured guest for the evening was Bob Heil, K9EID, ([www.heilsound.com](http://www.heilsound.com))

with a special introduction by Joe Walsh, WB6ACU, ([www.joewalsh.com](http://www.joewalsh.com)) well known Ham and guitarist for the Eagles.



Bob showed up with his ever-present bottle of Dr. Pepper and gave a very entertaining and informative talk. Starting with his early days playing the organ in a St. Louis Theater. The theater being a few blocks from the KMOX Studios he would spend his off time while the movie was playing, learning from the engineers at the KMOX. Bob it seems has been spending quite a few late nights sipping DP and working on new products and improving existing ones. He has several new items he hopes will be

out by Dayton but for sure the later part of the year. All I can say is the headset I tried on will be scratched off my "wish list" as soon as it hits the market. Cathy, K6VC, did an excellent job putting all this together in a very short period of time. I don't know about you but I didn't even know we had a club coffeepot. Cathy found it somewhere and we enjoyed hot coffee and cookies for Valentines Day this year.

## AWARDS

Nominations for the SCDXC DXer of the Year and the Clipperton Award must be sent to the board NOW! These awards will be presented at the DX Convention in Visalia in March.

Check out the requirements on the club webpage. You may submit your nomination using email.

## DXCC Honor Roll deadline March 31st

Remember the deadline for the next DXCC Honor Roll list is March 31, 2003. For operators to appear in the next list, your application must be post-marked by that date.

The DXCC Honor Roll list includes only current entities; deleted entities do not count toward Honor Roll. With the addition of Ducie Island in 2002, the minimum number of entities required for Honor Roll is 326. For Number One Honor Roll, the total is 335 current entities.

Plaques remain available for anyone currently or previously on the Honor Roll. Order forms are available on the DXCC Web Page site <<http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/>>

## Next General Meeting

The SCDXC meets the second Thursday of the month. Our next meeting will be held March 13th, 2003 at Syd Kronenthal Park in Culver City. The park is located 4 blocks west of La Cienega Blvd. and 2 blocks south of Washington Blvd. From the 10 Freeway exit La Cienega south to Washington Blvd. Turn right (west) 4 blocks to McManus Ave (it's La Cienega Ave to the right, McManus to the left). Turn left (south) 2 blocks to the Park. The street dead-ends at the parking lot.

Please do not park in the school lot.

Our guest will be Pat Marcy from Icom - upcoming radios and possibly a new one

*See ya there!*

## Ham Puzzle

By Milt, W6RJO

Last month V.H.Ham ran some tests to find the best height for his antenna? We were asked to explain his results.

Because the majority of hams live in cities, their antenna real estate is limited. Not only is higher better for beams in this environment because of ground interaction up to a height of a wavelength or so (To get a lower angle of radiation), but the antenna is clear of ground reflections from neighboring buildings that distort radiation patterns. For very high antennas (200 feet or greater), the effect of the ground is less and less approaching free space condition (independent of height). A good example is 6000 feet in a plane with the antenna mounted on top.

This month we ponder the ultimate question:

### Split Frequency Pileup Strategy

Almost all the rare stuff these days are using split frequency operation to spread out the pileups. V.H. was stalking one he needed for an all time new one and that guy, transmitting on 14.195 naively announced to the pileup to call him above 14,200 KHz.

Our V.H. Ham station has a panoramic adaptor on his receiver, so he can view the pileup signal blip heights and frequencies on his screen. He tries to stalk the DX to ascertain his call response pattern, but it seems that the DX responds randomly to caller pileup frequencies



V.H. thinks that the upper frequency edge of the pileup would be a good spot from which to call, but where is it? As he listens and watches he further notices that the callers have spread themselves out roughly from 14200 to 14220 KHz. Where should V.H. transmit to maximize his likelihood of snagging this new country?

## Propagation for March 2002

by Shel, W6EL

These predictions for the five prime HF bands show the times when propagation is expected to be best from Los Angeles to several locations that are expected to be active during the coming month.



Other times are possible, but with weaker signals or lower probability. Openings are not expected on bands that are not listed. A solar flux of 142, corresponding to a sunspot number of 95, and an average geomagnetic field are assumed. Sunrise/sunset times are at the DX location. All times are UTC.

Good luck and good DX from Shel, W6EL.

VP6/D Ducie Island - 3/8 to 3/15 -  
Beam 187 degrees  
Sunrise/sunset 1423/0235  
80: 0530-1300.  
40: 0330-1330.  
20: 0130-1500.  
15: 1430-1030.  
10: 1530-0500.

ZK1 North Cook IS. - 3/8 to 3/15 -  
Beam 229 degrees  
Sunrise/sunset 1644/0448  
80: 0730-1330.  
40: 0530-1400.  
20: 0330-1600.  
15: 1600-1000.  
10: 1700-0500.

3B8 Mauritius - 3/9 to 3/22 -  
Beam 16 degrees  
Sunrise/sunset 0216/1422  
40: Long path 1330-1430.  
20: 2300-0300. Long path 1230-

1530.  
15: 1530-2300.  
10: 1800-2030.

HH Haiti - 3/10 to 3/21 -  
Beam 99 degrees  
Sunrise/sunset 1102/2257  
80: 0330-1100.  
40: 0130-1130.  
20: 2100-1500.  
15: 1430-0200.  
10: 1630-2300.

ST0 Sudan - 3/10 to 3/31 -  
Beam 36 degrees  
Sunrise/sunset 0403/1603  
40: 0300-0400.  
20: 0030-0500.  
15: 1700-0130.  
10: 1700-2400.

## SOAP BOX

(Continued from page 2)

guitarist Bernie Leadon, bringing a harder rock sound to the group. Over the next four years, this configuration of the Eagles released "Hotel California," (which went gold, reaching #1 on the Billboard Charts), as well as "The Long Run" and "Eagles Live" (reaching Billboard's #1 and #6 respectively). During this same period, Joe's boundless energy and musical enthusiasm led to the release of two solo albums: "You Can't Argue With a Sick Mind" (a live album), and "But Seriously Folks", which boasted the notorious hit "Life's Been Good".

In 1994, the Eagles reunited for the release of a new album titled "Hell Freezes Over", which reached #1 on the Billboard charts and sparked one of the most successful tours in music history. The Eagles obviously WERE still at the top of their game as they were inducted into the Rock 'N Roll Hall of Fame in 1998, the very first year they were nominated.

Continuing the meeting, Joe then introduced Bob Heil, K9EID, from Heil Sound. Bob gave us a great presentation talking to us about his professional career, and taught us a bunch about sound, audio, and introduces several new products, as Heil Sound continues to push the envelope for hams with some of the best microphones, headsets, and other radio products for the ham marketplace.

Bob Heil has always been a great supporter and prize contributor to the SCDXC, and has been extremely generous to our club with his super prize donations for the Visalia DX convention over the years. Bob surprises us with the unplanned prize donation of the Heil Proset Plus, and as luck would have it, yours truly had the winning ticket for it! Thanks to Joe Walsh for picking my hand out of the hat.

I hope to see everyone at the March meeting. It will be on Thursday, March 13, 2003.

73 for now de Herb / KG6OK – kg6ok@pacbell.net

## FIELD DAY CHANGES

Field Day will gain another entry class for 2003. "Class F" stations will operate at emergency operations centers, or EOCs. The change renews the emphasis of Field Day's 1933 origins as an emergency preparedness exercise as opposed to a routine contest.

25 February 2003

Southern California DX Club

Dear Club Members:

We have recently been advised by the American Radio Relay League that they received a memorial contribution to the Education and Technology Fund from the SCDXC in memory of our father, George J. Watts, KB6V.

We would like to express our appreciation and thanks. As a life member of ARRL, George would be pleased by your kind gesture.

George, like many of you, developed a keen interest in amateur radio at a very young age and always felt it most important to support ARRL's efforts on behalf of young people.



George obtained amateur license W7ANR in 1932 and his enthusiasm for DXing was clearly shown on his first QSL card.

On behalf of the Family  
Best regards,

Herbert C. Watts

## Travel Tips

If you wear orthopedic shoes the probably have stell shanks. The metal detectors at airports will be set off as you pass through. So — be prepared to be asked to take them off. Also, most airlines have stopped serving food to regular class. Take a box lunch.



## CQ DE KR6C, QUARTZ HILL

Hi, I'm Chuck and welcome to my shack. I built this station over many years of finding deals here and there. The station is 1980's vintage equipment (Kenwood TS-830S w/ VFO-230 and a Dentron MLA-2500 Amp)



The SCDXC Newsletter invites you to visit with Past President KR6C, Chuck Constantine.

Before I moved here (Quartz Hill/Lancaster) in 97, I lived in a Condo in Moorpark for 11 years. I had fanned wire dipoles on the roof suspended from the vent pipes and fed with 125' of RG-58C. I also had a 60 foot end fed wire that went through the trees in the complex. I had to run low power most of the time to avoid RFI to all the neighbors. I work my DXCC CW & Mixed from there as a General Class Op.. I recently made Honor Roll with my 160 thru 2 Meters, single tower setup on a small city lot. The top antenna is Force-12 C4SXL (40-10M) at 40 feet. The lower antenna is a Cushcraft A3WS+30M (30,17,12M) at 35 feet. I use a Ham-IV Rotor to turn it. I also dropped two shunt wires and feed the whole structure on 75/80/160M.

I had to mount the beams perpendicular to each other to reduce bad 15M interaction. This seems to also help reduce the wind torque. Living in the high desert can get interesting when its windy. Highest winds speed I have clocked so far have been 70+MPH! Can make for a sleepless night hi!

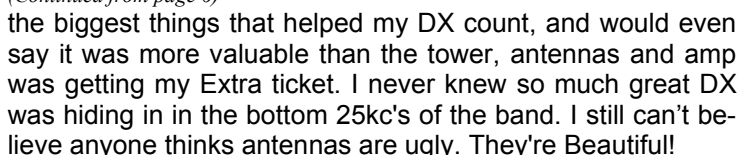
The tower is a US-Tower TMM433HD (33' fully extended, 12' retracted). A special thanks to Keith, KB6B, who helped me pour the foundation for the tower. You can also see the Shielded loop receive antenna I sometimes use on 160. It might not be much, but it has allowed me to work 3DA0CA and CN8WW where I couldn't hear them on the tower. You can see the 160 Shunt Arm for mounted at the top left of the tower, and if you look closely you can see the 80 Shunt arm on the right.

As you can see from this picture I don't have much room to run many radials for the 80/160 set-up. You can see the Shunt wire stand-off's and notice the wires pull out to the fence then go into the little blue box with the tuning network. Pulling the wires out near the base raised the feed resistance and made it easier to tune.

Well it took 21 years since I first got my Novice ticket at the age of 17 to finally have a house where I could install a modest tower and beams. I really think the time I spent DXing from the Condo with my General ticket really helped my ability to pull weak ones out of the noise, fight with the Big Guns in the pile-up's and listen, listen, before calling to avoid RFI problems. One of

*(Continued on page 7)*





Current 326 confirmed

Harv. K6EXO

## Steve's Corner

*A bit of those first days —*

### Stalking a "new one"

Angola, on the southwest coast of Africa, first saw Portuguese presence in 1575. It was not until 1974, when the regime in Portugal was overthrown, that talks began for the eventual Angolan independence of 1975.

A check of my QSL file yields a CR6BX card for 1967 and another for CR6CK in 1968 — both on 15m CW. They're good for mixed DXCC credit of course but since the CW DXCC award didn't officially start until January 1, 1975, I had to find Angola on CW again. When the Portuguese left, so did most ham radio activity. There were limited operations from visiting eastern block European's who were there on business. It was November 1979 and I had worked 254 countries towards CW DXCC. New ones were getting fewer and far between. OK3TAB/D2A was active and was known to switch from SSB to CW if you'd ask. On November 19<sup>th</sup> at 1900Z, I finally got through to Laci on 10m SSB. "Can you flip over to CW for me?" I asked confidently, my left hand on the rig's mode switch, the right on the keyer paddle. His reply: "Next time. QRZ OK3TAB/D2A."

"Next time?" I thought to myself. "Next time?" I really hadn't expected *that*. So now I have to work him again on phone and ask him yet again for a CW contact. Well that's the operator's decision, what can you do? Damn!

On November 27<sup>th</sup> I heard Laci again, this time on 20m SSB. I dove in and worked him at 0459Z and immediately asked him to flip over to CW. He said, once again: "Next time." Incredulously I yelled — yes, I'm *sure* I yelled: "This IS the next time!" He paused for a second and then came up on CW for me for # 255, and just as fast went back to the SSB pile up. The QSL card came on a direct request from manager OK3ALE as the scan confirms.

The next time I worked Angola was not until June 1991 when D2ACA was activated by Ukrainian ops — a twelve-year drought.

Angola probably no longer qualifies as even semi-rare. You likely have D2 confirmed on one or more bands and modes but there was a time.....

73, Steve WB6RSE

ANGOLA - Luanda

# D2ACA

CONFIRMING QSO

TO RADIO	DAY	MONTH	YEAR	TIME	FREQ	MODE	RTT
WB6RSE	1	June	1991	22:36	21	SSB	59

PSE QSL TNX

Verified By JOLY  
473111

YOUTH ORG. COMMITTEE  
RADIO CLUB  
P.O. BOX 99 - KIEV 1  
252001 - UKRAINE

REPUBLICA POPULAR DE - ANGOLA

# OK 3 TAB/D2A

CFM QSO WITH

TO RADIO	DATE
WB6RSE	27.11.79

GMT	MC	RTT	2-WAY
0459	14	599	CA

Pse/Req QSL direct via ZAC Box 49 PHARA 1 Vy 79 Sgny OK3ALE

## A Question — a Request

Your editor is looking for QSL cards, etc from the W0MLY (Dick McKercher) DXpeditions to Africa back in the early 1960's. A lot of DXers were made very happy confirming very hard to get new ones as a result of this effort. If you have a card or a story about the DXpedition— send it to K6EXO@arrl.net.

The places where Dick operated from were: TJ8 Cameroon, TL8 Centrafr.Rep, TN8 Rep. Congo, TR8 Gabon, TT8 Tchad, TZ2 Mali, TY2 Dahomey, 5V4 Togo



## Who We Are

The SCDXC Newsletter is published monthly by the Southern California DX Club and is e-mailed to all club members.

Please notify the editor if you do not receive your newsletter, have a change of address, or have found an error.


Please direct all submissions to the editor.

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**COMMUNICATIONS  
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## WANTED

We need articles for the newsletter.  
The Barrel is running dry.  
Please send STUFF — your stories — your QSLs—your photos.  
The quality of the newsletter is dependent on the material you send in.

Harv — K6EXO

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, New or Renewal

Return to club treasurer: Paul Lawrence, 2986 Haddington Drive Los Angeles CA 90064

CALL \_\_\_\_\_ NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

HOME TELEPHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ WORK TELEPHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**SCDXC Dues are \$18.00 per year, make checks payable to SCDXC**